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Maintenance of international security — prevention of the violent disintegration of States

Letter dated 25 May 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the press communiqué issued by the Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Venezuela and the Russian Federation on the occasion of the official visit of Ambassador Jorge Valero, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Venezuela, to Moscow on 13 and 14 May 1999 (see annex).

I should be grateful if this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 64.

(Signed) Ignacio **Arcaya**
Ambassador

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Annex

Press communiqué issued by the Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Venezuela and the Russian Federation in Moscow on 14 May 1999

On 14 May, the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Gueorguiy Enverovich Mamedov, and the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Venezuela, Jorge Valero Briceño, held political consultations between their two countries in Moscow.

A thorough exchange of views took place on a wide range of international problems. The similarity and convergence of the two countries' positions on various matters pertaining to the maintenance of peace and global and regional security were noted. The parties expressed support for closer political interaction in the international sphere, fully reflecting the aspirations of the two States to build a multipolar world order.

Special attention was paid to the situation in the Balkans and to Russia's efforts to bring about a political solution to the Kosovo conflict under United Nations auspices. The Russian Federation noted with satisfaction Venezuela's desire to find just mechanisms for achieving a negotiated solution to the armed conflict in the Balkans, based on respect for the territorial integrity of States and the human rights of all ethnic groups and minorities in the region. Venezuela, for its part, welcomed the efforts made by the Russian Federation towards a peaceful solution of the conflict. Both parties reiterated their commitment to the United Nations and their support for all the efforts that it is making to restore peace. They therefore welcomed the new initiatives put forward by the Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, in that regard.

The parties expressed optimism about the prospects for expanding bilateral political, economic, commercial, scientific, technical and cultural ties. In particular, they examined the possibilities of increasing cooperation between their two countries in the energy sphere, where significant potential exists for mutually beneficial cooperation. They agreed to exchange trade delegations made up of representatives of the public and private sectors, at a time to be agreed.

Lastly, the two parties expressed satisfaction that the negotiation and signature of important draft agreements on tourism, cooperation in combating illicit traffic and abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and cooperation and mutual assistance in combating illegal financial operations had reached an advanced stage. They expressed support for continuing the dialogue on matters of common interest and bringing that dialogue to the highest levels of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and Venezuela. To that end, the two Ministers will meet on the occasion of the forthcoming session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The consultations took place in a constructive, cordial and business-like atmosphere.